

May 30, 2003

Dear Mr. Powell,

I am writing to ask you to delay your vote on broadcast media deregulation in order to allow for a democratic process and debate, and to express my views:

I believe that to deregulate broadcast media is simply undemocratic. The broadcast airwaves belong to the public, not to big corporations. You say that you support diversity in the media, yet by supporting deregulation you are precisely not supporting diversity in the media because you are supporting a corporate monopoly instead. (Besides, do we really need another homogenous form of "Clear Channel"?) Your argument that programming will be improved because it will be in the likeness of cable/pay tv is a silly veil for the true undemocratic structural overhaul that would take place to accommodate the corporations. Corporations already own networks, and if they wanted to make better programs, they would. Are you planning to abolish Standards and Practices? Since when does the government worry about the quality of our entertainment? I find that frightening, and undemocratic. And frankly, the American public deserves a chance for a real debate on the issue.

Let's approach this issue like a democracy, for it will affect each and every American.

From An American Patriot and Citizen.